

## 8<sup>th</sup> Grade United States History Final Exam Study Guide

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### The Exam

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The final history exam will focus largely on the second semester's material. It will cover, however, themes of American history from the entire year's material. **You can expect roughly 60% of the test to be from the second semester, and 40% from the first semester.**

The exam format will feature two kinds of questions: short-answer questions and essay question(s). The short-answer questions will ask you to give two- or three-sentence explanations. They will incorporate the skills that have been developed all year long, such as map comprehension and political cartoon interpretation. The essay question(s) will serve as a culmination of the year's focus on critical writing and thematic analysis, inviting you to think broadly about themes and comparisons from both semesters.

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### How To Use The Study Guide

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This study guide offers a high-level outline of the year's material. It highlights the major time periods, and it points to particularly important topics. You will need to fill in the information behind each item and understand how each plays a role in its time period.

Allow the names and terms to direct your studying. Pay special attention to the questions within each section. These are all good potential essay questions, particularly those that ask you to compare themes across time periods.

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### Study Methods

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Studying your class notes is the best way to prepare. You might also review the chapters you have read in the textbook (the page numbers from the year are on the portal or in your planner). Past test review sheets, quizzes, handouts, and group work are also good study aids.

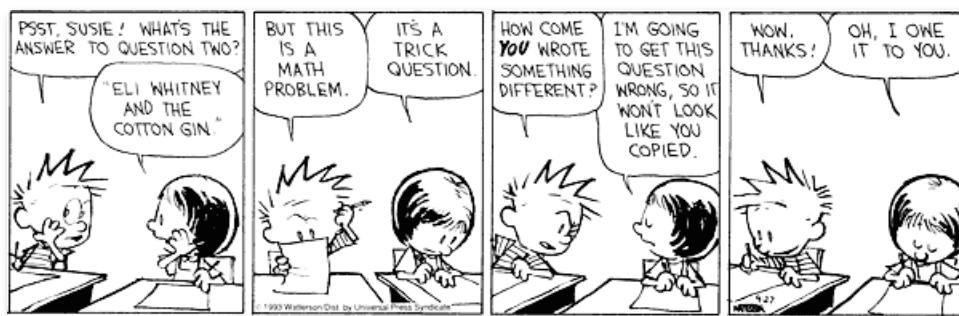
Each student has study methods that he or she finds helpful. **The greatest key is being organized. Gather your study materials together in a special Notability folder or binder, and review a bit each night instead of cramming at the last minute.** Methods that students have found effective include: personal review sheets, reading aloud, team studying, and practice writing.

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### Good Luck!!!

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Remember: If you have been an active participant in class, a thorough note-taker, and a conscientious reader throughout the year, you will have an easy time preparing for the exam and should only have to remind yourself of the major points. **If you are sufficiently prepared, you will be able to relax and do your best during the test itself!**



## **Exam Review Material Time Periods and Class Units**

### **Pre-1920 – The Gilded Age, The Frontier, and World War I**

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Corporation, proprietorship, partnership, Captain of Industry, Robber Baron, Carnegie, Rockefeller, industrialists, electricity and inventions, economies of scale, monopoly, trust, Social Darwinism, laissez-faire, Sherman Antitrust Act, tenements, sweatshops, settlement houses, Boss Tweed, Thomas Nast, corruption, conspicuous consumption, Native Americans, Edward Curtis, government policies, Dawes Act, western industries, gold rush, Turner Thesis, global expansion, manifest destiny, McKinley, Roosevelt, Taft, Archduke Ferdinand, alliances, nationalism, imperialism, militarism, Allies, Central Powers, trench warfare, U-Boats, new technologies, Wilson, neutrality, *Lusitania*, Sussex Pledge, Russian Revolution, Selective Service Act, War Industries Board, Hooverizing, war bonds, role of women and African Americans, League of Nations, Treaty of Versailles, Fourteen Points

- ❑ How did the attitude of government toward business change from the 1800s to WWI?
- ❑ What were the negative effects of economic growth in the late 1800s?
- ❑ How did the government's policy toward the Native Americans change over time? What were the reasons for the Indians' defeat?
- ❑ How did growth in the American West echo the growth of big business in the East?
- ❑ What were the reasons that America began to expand internationally in the 1900s?
- ❑ What were the causes of World War I? Why did the United States enter World War I?
- ❑ What were the terms of the Treaty of Versailles after World War I?

### **The Roaring 20s**

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Harding, Coolidge, Hoover, prohibition, isolationism, laissez-faire, "Jazz Age," corruption, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, segregation, Jim Crow laws, literacy test, poll tax, Langston Hughes, Great Migration, Harlem Renaissance, *Brown v. Board Of Education*, economic boom, credit, radio, inventions, advertising, sports, movie, music, literature, flappers, women's rights, automobile, Lindbergh

- ❑ What changes took place in society during the 1920s?
- ❑ How did inventions transform America from an agricultural to an industrial society?
- ❑ What were the negative effects of economic growth in the 1920s?
- ❑ How did the lives of women change during the decade?
- ❑ How did life change for African Americans after the Civil War? In the 1920s? How did African Americans and groups of people fight for equal rights up to the 1960s?

## **The Great Depression**

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Hoover, stock market crash, over-speculation, margin buying, stock pool, mob psychology, farm crisis, overproduction, banking system, domino effect, Smoot-Hawley Tariff, Bonus Army, Roosevelt, The New Deal, First 100 Days, bank holiday, fireside chats, the “three R’s,” social programs, court packing

- ❑ Why did the Stock Market crash in 1929?
- ❑ What were the causes of the Great Depression?
- ❑ How did Hoover and FDR differ in their approaches to repairing the Depression?
- ❑ How did the U.S. government change its attitude toward jobs and businesses during the 1930s?

## **World War II**

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Memory of World War I, terms of Treaty of Versailles, Italy, Mussolini, demagogue, Fascists, Germany, Hitler, Nazis, anti-Semitism, Japan, military leaders, appeasement, beginnings of the war, Pearl Harbor, Axis Powers, Allies, Europe First, aggressive defense, El Alamein, Stalingrad, Midway, internment, D-Day, Yalta Conference, V-E Day, island hopping, Truman, atomic bomb, Manhattan Project, the Soviet Union, communism, Stalin, post-war Europe, divided Germany and Berlin, the “Cold War”

- ❑ What did the dictatorships that developed after World War I have in common?
- ❑ How was the American response on the home front in WWII similar to WWI?
- ❑ How did roles of women and African Americans change due to World Wars I & II?
- ❑ Why did European countries try to appease Hitler and German expansion?
- ❑ How did the Allies defeat the Axis Powers to win World War II?
- ❑ Were the causes of World War II similar to or different from World War I?
- ❑ Why did the United States and the Soviet Union emerge as global superpowers during the “Cold War”?
- ❑ Overall, from the Reconstruction era to the World War II era, how did the role of the United States in the global community grow and change?

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### Suggested Exam Study Schedule

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When to Study....	What to Study....
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Over the weekend -  
(Fri./Sat./Sun., May 18 - 20)

Gather history notes, handouts, and other relevant materials from the year, and organize them by unit to prepare for studying

Monday night -  
May 21

Review the unit on "World War II"

Tuesday night -  
May 22

Review the unit on "The Great Depression"

Wednesday night -  
May 23

Review the unit on "The Roaring 20s"

Thursday night -  
May 24

Review the Pre-1920s Era (The Gilded Age, The Frontier, and World War I)

Over the weekend -  
(Fri./Sat./Sun./Mon., May 25 - 28)

Review any remaining questions from any time period

Practice answering potential essay questions: write notes, thesis statements, outlines, or drafts for the guiding questions on the review sheet

Do a final review of any last topics, and get a good night's sleep

